

Weekly Column for June 12, 2008

As I sit here this afternoon on bright, sunny day, I only wish we could book this weather for Saturday. Hopefully we will have similar sunny skies, and few clouds. Saturday is of course the 5th Annual River Street Festival in Downtown Troy.

It is hard to believe that it was five years ago we began this event in the singular hope to bring people to downtown Troy on a Saturday afternoon. Now it has grown into one of the more exciting events each year in the Capital District. With nice weather, you can expect about 20,000 people to fill four blocks of River Street throughout the day on Saturday.

The 102.7 WEQX Music Stage will once again draw many of those people, with 80's sensation Naked Eyes highlights the national acts that also include ISM, Jet Lag Gemini, and Dr. Dog. The local stage will also be a hit, and includes: Sean Rowe, Stuck on Stupid, Maurizio, Brittney Robichard, and Mike and the Monsters.

As we have talked about in previous weeks, the Arts Center of the Capital Region is once again bringing back the Sidewalk Chalk Contest. Be sure to stop by and judge some of the entries for yourself! This will take place on the section of River Street north of City Hall, which until this year has not been a main part of the festival. This year, it will certainly be one of the must see editions.

Outside of the sidewalk chalk and music, there will be of course more than 75 vendors, artists, restaurants, crafts, antiques, and anything else you can think of. The entire family can have fun in the "Children's Creativity Park," a kid's only painting of a new fence to be placed on one of our parking decks, magician Jeffrey Jene, and of course Radio Disney's Street of Fun!

I would be remiss without thanking all of the sponsors of this event, including, Pioneer Savings Bank, John Ray and Sons, CDTA, WEQX, Radio Disney, the Troy Downtown Collaborative, and Dana Rudolph and Company.

When we say that there is something for the whole family, we truly do mean it. The festival kicks off at 10 a.m. this Saturday, and is rain or shine. We're looking for the shine.

Have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy